

INTERMOUNTAIN WEATHERIZATION TRAINING FUND

SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
STAFF: RUSSELL FRANSEN

ISSUE BRIEF

SUMMARY

As part of the reorganization of appropriations acts, the Analyst recommends that the committee vote to include the Intermountain Weatherization Training Fund. The Executive Appropriations Committee approved this reorganization of the appropriations acts on November 13, 2012. Based on current law (UCA 35A-8-1301) the Intermountain Weatherization Training Fund receives its revenue automatically and can spend all revenues without additional Legislative action. The Fund ended FY 2012 with a balance of \$1,800.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

- As part of the reorganization of appropriations acts, the Analyst recommends that the committee vote to include the Intermountain Weatherization Training Fund.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Why Are we Proposing This Change?

On November 13 the Executive Appropriations Committee approved reorganization of appropriations acts so that they will more clearly identify different types of transactions. Under the reorganization, operating and capital appropriations – typically thought of as “the budget” – will be presented in separate subsections from items that approve business-like activities, review fiduciary funds, or simply move money from one account to another. The reorganization will not only more clearly communicate the legislature’s intent to state agencies and the Division of Finance, it will also allow readers to more easily compare appropriations acts to other budget documents like the Governor’s recommendations and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

The reorganization also allows legislative staff to present more and better information about certain types of financial activity. Because transactions are now presented and summarized by type, all activity in self-spending “restricted special revenue” funds and enterprise funds can be shown without risk of double-counting. This year, staff is expanding and improving reporting on funds and accounts previously included in appropriations acts, and will over time add other funds not previously shown.

What is the Intermountain Weatherization Training Fund?

One such fund is the Intermountain Weatherization Training Fund. Money in the fund may come from private contributions, donations, grants, fees, any money appropriated by the Legislature, and earnings on fund money. The fund began in FY 2011 and ended FY 2012 with a balance of \$1,800.

The Department of Workforce Services explains the low fund balance with the following: “The Intermountain Weatherization Training Fund program received start-up funding from a federal ARRA grant appropriated and expended in the Weatherization program line item. Additional revenue is generated from training fees and is posted to the Fund. According to the rules of the federal grant, non-federal sources must be expended prior to expending federal grant revenue.”

UCA 35A-8-1301 lists the approved use of the fund: “shall authorize the expenditure of fund money to the Weatherization Training Center for the administration, operation, maintenance, and support of the center.”